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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

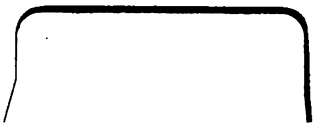
ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

DAVID WILBER

MAY 24, 1890



HON. DAVID WILBER.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

DAVID WILBER

(A REPRESENTATIVE FROM NEW YORK),

DELIVERED IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND IN THE SENATE,

FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1890.

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Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there be printed of the eulogies delivered in Congress upon the late DAVID WILBER, a Representative in the Fifty-first Congress from the State of New York, ten thousand copies, of which two thousand five hundred copies shall be for the use of the Senate and seven thousand five hundred for the use of the House of Representatives; and the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, directed to have printed a portrait of the said DAVID WILBER, to accompany said eulogies, and for the purpose of engraving and printing said portrait the sum of five hundred dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated. That of the quota to the House of Representatives the Public Printer shall set apart fifty copies, which he shall have bound in full morocco, with gilt edges, the same to be delivered when completed to the widow of the deceased.

Approved, September 19, 1890.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

APRIL 1, 1890.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it becomes my sad duty to announce the demise of Hon. DAVID WILBER, of New York. The lamp of his life, which for months has been failing, to-day went out. The time is not here to speak his eulogy. At some future time I shall ask the House to turn aside from its business to pay fitting tribute to his memory. For the present I offer the resolutions which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House has learned with profound regret of the death of Hon. DAVID WILBER, a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That a special committee of seven members of the House of Representatives and three members of the Senate be appointed to take order for attending his funeral at his residence in the State of New York; and the necessary expenses attending the execution of this order shall be payable out of first funds in the contingent fund of the House available therefor.

That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for properly carrying out the provisions of this resolution.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate the foregoing resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the House do now adjourn.

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer the resolutions I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended that opportunity be afforded members to pay proper tribute to the memory of Hon. DAVID WILBER, late a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That in the death of DAVID WILBER the country has lost the services of a safe legislator and faithful public servant.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to his memory the House shall at the conclusion of these ceremonies adjourn.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

ADDRESS OF MR. SHERMAN, OF NEW YORK.

Mr. SPEAKER: By death the living are taught a lesson; of death they know nothing, can learn nothing; in it the heart responds not to the living; the muscles have lost their power; the will is gone. Its awful mystery falls short of grandeur only by reason of the stinging pain, which blunts all sensibilities save that of sorrow. Whether it comes with the startling vividness of the lightning or with the certain premonitory warning of the low thunder, it is alike incomprehensible. The now and the then are so near, the invisible line which marks the division of the real and the hallowed, sanctified unreal is so narrow that a single step unravels the mystery. But that step taken is never retraced.

The revelation that comes thereby sheds no light this side the gloaming. The lesson startles, it warns us of, but does not reveal the hereafter. Rightly viewed it strengthens our belief in Divinity and molds our lives to share the happiness thus to be found. The portal we call death is sooner or later opened for us all. That one bare fact

palsies argument. Upon it the Christian and the Pagan can find no ground of difference. Well does that man live who is ready to enter therein when it opens for him, and render up the account of his stewardship to his Maker.

> So live, that, sinking in thy last long sleep,
> Calm thou mayst smile, while all around thee weep.

To-day we pay our last tribute of honor, of respect, of affection, for one who did so live.

On April 1, after a long and well-spent life, the immortal of DAVID WILBER passed to the higher existence. In his seventieth year, in the State of his nativity, almost in sight of the place of his birth, he died; and there, on a beautiful knoll overlooking the valley in which were passed all the active days of his life, his body sleeps—

> The sleep that knows not breaking.

Mr. Speaker, DAVID WILBER was a remarkable man. He was a strong, forceful character. From boyhood he made his own way in the world. An honest heart and a large brain he inherited from his Quaker parents. The advantages of an academic education it was not his fortune to receive. Yet his brain had remarkable absorbent and retentive power. Nothing of moment ever escaped his attention, and once noted it held place in his mind ever afterward. Habits of industry and frugality were learned in his youth to be followed through life.

With these habits and the little money he had saved from the earnings of his hands for his capital, he started in the business world fifty years ago, in Otsego County. Step by step he advanced. His foot never slipped backward because he never allowed it to. His forward course in the road of prosperity was as steady and as strong as the current of a mighty river. This was not so by chance. It was because

his will power was exhaustless, his energy untiring. His vocabulary knew no such word as "fail." It was because he had more of conservatism than of daring. It was because—

> He knows the compass, sail, and oar,
> Or never launches from the shore;
> Before he builds computes the cost,
> And in no proud pursuit is lost.

Before entering upon any undertaking he viewed it from every standing point; he scanned every detail; he thought out a plan of action. That plan was made with far-sight shrewdness. It was executed with industry and perseverance.

He could not be said to have kept pace with the progress of the time, for he was its leader. He marked the pace of industrial growth and business advancement for the entire community in which he lived. He was identified with every enterprise which had in view the advancement of his town, his county, or his locality.

Not a few of them had their inception in his brain. Of his time, his means, and his experience he was a liberal contributor to the business life of the community. His shoulder at the wheel was a force so well known in the later years of his life that even the chronic doubter known in every community made way for the advance of progress. His personal affairs he managed with wonderful sagacity. The capacity of his mind was even greater than the requirements of his extensive and varied interests. Neither his hands nor his mind were ever idle. He was both progressive and aggressive. He reaped the fruits of untiring energy and unquestioned honesty. His business life was successful to an extent even greater than that of most successful men.

In the county where he tilled the soil for others for a meager pittance fifty years before, at his death he owned

4,000 acres of well-cultivated land. And yet this was but a portion of the accumulations of his life. This was not the result either of selfishness or greed. He was frugal, but not parsimonious; generous, but not wasteful. The accumulation of wealth affected not his heart. To all DAVID WILBER, the capitalist, was the same kind, approachable, unostentatious DAVID WILBER of earlier days. He was ever ready to give to others the lesson he had learned by experience. With so gracious a mien did he carry his wealth others did not covet his success, but rejoiced with him because of it. He made for himself a reputation in the business world for pluck, perseverance, and integrity which will not soon be forgotten.

Politically he was a potential factor for a quarter of a century. He was a molder of public opinion. For many years he was the political leader of his county. He assumed not to dictate, but by common consent his judgment was always consulted and very generally followed. His political convictions were strong. He was not swayed by every changing breeze. His action was guided by principle, not by prejudice. Here as elsewhere was shown his iron will and determination. In 1858, '59, '62, '65, and '66 he represented the town of Milford, where he then resided, in the board of supervisors of Otsego County. This was a Democratic town; always so except when DAVID WILBER was a candidate.

Differing in party opinion and affiliation from the acknowledged majority of the town, he never knew defeat at the polls. Not only his energy and force were shown by these elections, but the esteem in which he was held by neighbors, regardless of party. His rare good sense, his kindly manner, and his wonderful tact in managing men made him during these years the principal factor in local

legislation. It does not need the broader field of State or national legislatures for a strong mind to make itself known and felt, nor for a leading spirit, by its natural force, to assert itself.

DAVID WILBER from 1859 to 1865 showed the truth of this statement. Men possessed of the positive qualities of Mr. WILBER do not often escape the public view. He was no exception to the rule. In 1872 he was elected to the Forty-third Congress, and again, in 1878, to the Forty-sixth Congress. The reapportionment of the Congressional districts of the State placed Mr. WILBER in a Democratic district just prior to the election of the Forty-ninth Congress, and during that Congress the district was represented by a Democrat, an able, upright man. Against his will, Mr. WILBER yielded to the urgent request of others and became a candidate for election to the Fiftieth Congress. He conducted this campaign with limitless energy. His election by a handsome majority followed a campaign noted for its thoroughness and its aggressiveness.

Frequent and severe illness took him often from his seat on this floor, and yet he kept a close watch upon legislation. Mr. WILBER often expressed a determination to retire from Congress at the close of that term. But the demands were so urgent for him to become his party's standard-bearer in the Presidential campaign of 1888, that finally, overpersuaded, he took up the task of another campaign. He carried it through with a measure of success beyond the most sanguine expectations.

In the Fifty-first Congress he never took his seat. He was taken seriously ill on October 30 last, and from that sickness he never recovered.

By special order of the House he, with his distinguished colleague from Pennsylvania, with whom he was paired, took

his oath of office at his home. The pair he so much hoped to end by his presence here God dissolved.

In Congress he never took part in debate. He was not a conspicuous figure upon the floor. It was in committee that his constructive genius found play. He represented his constituency faithfully and well. His value as a member came not that he was an orator, or possessed wonderfully quick perception, but because of his plodding industry, his constant watchfulness, and his excellent good judgment.

As in business so was he here, genial, approachable, kindly. He did not share the common belief that here each must make his pathway forward over the prostrate forms of his colleagues. Were it necessary to crowd some other back that he might push forward he was content to remain behind. He was frequently a delegate in State conventions and was also a delegate to the national conventions of 1880 and 1888. His participation in public affairs covered a period longer than the life of many of his colleagues on this floor.

His record is that of an honorable man who never shirked a duty, or diverged from the path where conscience led.

Of Mr. WILBER's domestic life I will speak but a single word.

He was married in 1845, and his wife and two sons survive him. In the family circle Mr. WILBER was always cheerful, considerate, and loving. The cares of his life he carried alone, its happiness he shared with his family. The light his sunny disposition shed about his home will never wholly fade. What was bright and tender and true of him will be uppermost in the mind of the bereaved wife, softening her sorrow until they shall meet again.

Mr. WILBER was a firm supporter of the church and the school. He was a director in more than one educational

institution. His Christianity was not of the sectarian type; he had an affection for all men. He did good for the love of it. To him no single creed could point the road to Heaven. Desirous was he to help any good work under the auspices of whatever denomination it was instituted. No deserving charity went empty-handed from his door. To do for others was to him a pleasure. Injustice he could not tolerate. Sham in every form he scorned. In his friendship he was intensely strong and true as steel. Strangely, perhaps, his dislikes were not as strong as his likes. He was slow to anger, plenteous in mercy. He was quick to see an injustice and sensitive to a personal affront, but he quickly forgave and forgot. He was well balanced; his body, his mind, his heart kept even pace with each other. What he appeared to be he was—a large-hearted, broad-minded, plain-spoken, kindly man.

ADDRESS OF MR. MCCORMICK, OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Mr. SPEAKER: My first acquaintance with DAVID WILBER was in the beginning of the Fiftieth Congress. He was my colleague in committee, and although at that time suffering to some extent from disease, he took an active part in all the work of the committee. I was impressed with his strong good sense and his outspoken convictions. He was a type of manhood not uncommon in this country of great opportunities. He was honest, industrious, and self-reliant, and these qualities had made him a success in life. Born to poverty, self-educated, and without any of the advantages that wealth and social position give to those who possess them, he fought the battle of life single-handed, and acquired for himself both wealth and position. Four times he was

elected to Congress by a district doubtful with any other candidate; once he represented his party in its national convention, and for more than thirty years he had held positions of trust and responsibility. Everywhere and at all times he performed his duty with fidelity, and he leaves to his family an honored name.

His life is another example of what may be accomplished by honest, energetic, well-directed effort. From a poor boy he came to be a wealthy and honored citizen, loved and respected by all who knew him. Those who knew him best and longest trusted him implicitly, and their confidence was never betrayed.

He died amongst the people with whom he had spent his life, his birth-place being in one of the counties comprising the district he so faithfully represented in Congress.

Mr. WILBER was a business man of rare ability, and accustomed as he was to business methods, the long debates in Congress and the delays in legislation were exceedingly distasteful to him. In the first session of the Forty-sixth Congress, on May 15, 1879, he made a brief speech, in which he used this language:

> I have met here day after day and listened to wild theories upon different subjects, and in my judgment as a business man this Congress has not done as much legislation that will benefit the country since the 18th day of March as any ten good business men would do in one half day.

My relations with Mr. WILBER were only such as came from committee association, and of his good works and his virtues as a citizen I will therefore leave others to speak who knew him well. I have given only my impressions of the man acquired during my very brief official acquaintance with him. This was sufficient, however, to make me regret his loss to his family, to the community in which he lived, and to the country he served so honorably and well.

ADDRESS OF MR. MCRAE, OF ARKANSAS.

Mr. SPEAKER: Death has stricken another name from the roll of the membership of this House. DAVID WILBER, the late Representative from the Twenty-fourth New York district, has fallen into the "sleep that no pain shall wake," and the public business is now suspended, that his friends may have an opportunity to pay proper respect to his memory and to study his virtues.

In the observance of this long-established ceremonial we meet as members of a common family. At the grave it has been said that "envy holds her breath, partisan bitterness is hushed for a moment, and even silence, that rare visitant here, extends her tranquilizing wings for a little while over us." It is amid such surroundings that the weakness of the individual, the necessity for a stronger fraternity of man, and the power and beauty of God are forcibly impressed upon us. Such occasions, though sad, are beneficial to the living, in that they serve to open the way for that great truth that man's duties reach out beyond the lines that inclose party or sect and touch his fellows wherever they may be found. By this act we honor the lamented dead, and at the same time should be reminded of our own mortality and how fleeting are the honors of this world.

Naturally in the presence of death our reflections turn to the grandeur of that ambition which aspires beyond the affairs of life, and so we think of our friend to-day. That there is another and better life to which death is but the entrance and that the soul is immortal I do not in the least doubt, nor do I doubt that through Divine grace it is the privilege of all who will to enjoy that life throughout

eternity. The innate cravings for the infinite, the longings of its every emotion, its growth and holy aspirations all declare there is such a life beyond the grave. "Intelligence speaks and says that the light of reason shall not go out in the grave. Revelation points out man's escape from the shadow of death; the sun of righteousness with effulgent beams lights up the charnel house." 'Tis only a resting place. Our departed friend had been baptized into the faith of the great Gallilean and died a believer in the Christian religion, and so we feel assured that he shall awake to immortality beyond the confines of the tomb. Mr. WILBER was more than thirty years my senior, but to some extent I enjoyed his confidence and friendship during the time I knew him.

What I knew of him I learned from seeing him on this floor and by service with him in the committee-room during the Fiftieth Congress. Others who knew him at home and who are more familiar with his life have in a befitting manner spoken of his achievements in private life and of his successful public career, as well as of those qualities of head and heart which endeared him to the people who knew and honored him. While from my knowledge of him I would not feel warranted in naming him as one of those great characters who have marked the periods in our country's political history, I can truthfully say that he possessed many qualities which have commended themselves to the good of all ages, and without which there is no true greatness.

While he was peculiarly a man of affairs and business, he loved his country and her institutions and was proud of her growth and prosperity. He was honest in all matters, public and private; just to both friend and foe, and pure in purpose and morals. His public life was one of strict integrity, and his private character was without stain. His

benevolent nature made him the friend of all mankind, and he was generous in his helpfulness to all the needy and deserving. Sincere and earnest, he intended always to do right and to render to every one his dues. He was faithful to his convictions, true to his friends, devoted to his family, and always acted under a sense of duty. A German writer has said that "there are two things supremely beautiful in this world, the starry sky above our heads and the sense of duty in our hearts." This sense of duty appeared to be always present with our friend. Not that he was always right, for some of us must say, to be true to our own convictions, that he was often wrong on questions of governmental policy, and yet it does not change the argument that he so believed.

We shall miss him upon this floor; the people of his district will miss him; his family will miss him more than all; but he has left us a legacy of good examples, his people at home the record of a faithful and honorable service as their Representative, and his family a good name, and ample fortune honestly acquired. His many deeds of charity and kindness will be long remembered by his neighbors and friends. To the grief-stricken widow and sons we can only commend the language of inspiration: "Now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." As we lay this tribute on the grave of our friend and bid him adieu we do so in the full confidence that he has gone—

Out of the shadows of sadness,
Into the sunshine of gladness,
Into the light of the blest;
Out of a land very dreary,
Out of the world very weary,
Into the rapture of rest.

Out of to-day's sin and sorrow,
Into a blissful to-morrow,
Into a day without gloom;
Out of a land filled with sighing,
Land of the dead and the dying,
Into a land without tomb.

ADDRESS OF MR. RUSSELL, OF CONNECTICUT.

Mr. SPEAKER: My acquaintance with Hon. DAVID WILBER was formed during the Fiftieth Congress through association on the Committee on Railways and Canals. He was among the oldest in years in that association and I among the youngest. Between us was the half portion of that period which is the allotted age of man. But there was a separation in age only. In acquaintance the difference in our years proved a strong span and a tender tie, by which I came to know of our dead brother's kind heart and generous humanity.

In what society in life are found so great jealousy of success and so little sympathy for failure as here in our Congressional association? But DAVID WILBER'S nature spurned that jealousy and cultivated that sympathy. His was an exceptional disposition, unselfish, kind, helpful, considerate. It is a full appreciation of that noble disposition which prompts from me to-day a young man's tribute to an elder's guidance, support, and encouragement. He, of fullness in experience and of knowledge in affairs, was ever ready to impart that experience and that knowledge; not to parade it as a patent assigned to his own use and bequest, but to infuse it, that his fellows might use and profit. A character which shuts not up its good qualities for selfish purposes and personal aggrandizement is beautiful and

chivalric anywhere. It is notable and beneficent in Congress.

During the sessions of the last Congress Mr. WILBER'S health was failing. His attendance on his duties here was a great physical effort. He was oftener in the committee-room and at home in his hotel to his friends than on this floor. It was in those places that we came to know him and to love him. In revered memory we recall him comfortably resting in easy chair or on lounge and interestingly talking on questions of public import in Congress and in the nation. Decided in opinion, grounded in his political faith, reasoning his views, his Congressional work was that of suggestion and encouragement to those whose physical strength permitted vigorous action on the measures in which he believed. His counsel was given so as to conceal even the semblance of arrogance or aged wisdom. It was as the teaching of an instructor who has first gained the affection of the pupil and then bestows rather than dictates knowledge. The cheerful, helpful, ingenuous association which our friend gave to his fellows lives in my memory as his eminent characteristic. I thank him for that association, which was forbidding to none, inviting to all, honest and honorable always.

Mr. Speaker, I can not refer in detail to the business and political life of Mr. WILBER. His colleagues from New York State will do that. They, more appropriately than myself, can make reference to those qualities of heart and head which in the privacy of the family circle and in the intimacy of close relationship made him the good and true man. I have spoken of his fellowship here, which was free and unpretentious, and carried with it cheer and comfort and benefit to us who came within its influence. But I must not overlook a characteristic which impressed itself upon all who came

into his association. It was a purpose indomitable, though not belligerent; it was a pursuit indefatigable, though not obnoxious.

Whatever he undertook was pursued with the purpose of accomplishment. His whole life was energy, active and not bombastic. His force was success achieved and not merely contemplated. The unfailing purpose and the untiring pursuit which raised him to prominence and affluence in business carried him through the embarrassments and contentions of political life. His intimate political associates must rank him as a propelling power, if not a showy pennant, attached to the political craft of the great Empire State.

Mr. Speaker, whatever may be the great hereafter, we who loved the fellowship of DAVID WILBER here and we who recall his honest purposes and his honorable pursuits in life, would renew association with him in that hereafter, and in holy purpose and eternal pursuit be with him again.

ADDRESS OF MR. TRACEY, OF NEW YORK.

Mr. SPEAKER: Few persons appreciate the variety of emotions a member of this House is subject to in the performance of his duties. There is always before him the knowledge that he must never deviate from the line marked out by his oath to support the Constitution, and this when public questions are being considered occasionally brings to him anxiety of mind when deciding whether he should support or approve a proposition. At times he is annoyed and irritated by the difficulty of obtaining what he deems proper consideration from committees to which his measures have been referred, while at other times he is gladdened by suc-

cess and made grateful to those colleagues who have aided him in accomplishing results to effect which he has worked so earnestly; and, Mr. Speaker, while he is thus satisfying some delicate question of conscience, or is being moved by feelings of anger, joy, or gratitude, there comes a day when another emotion is aroused, and he is startled by the announcement that death has entered the ranks and removed one of his colaborers, and he is grieved at the loss of a comrade and filled with sympathy for the afflicted family of his friend.

Alas, such a shock as this has not been an infrequent occurrence of late. Only a little more than half the Fifty-first Congress has passed, and we who remain have to mourn the loss of nine of our colleagues. Burnes, Townshend, Nutting, Gay, Laird, Cox, Kelley, Wilber, and Randall had many devoted friends, and were men of exceptional strength in their respective districts. Of them all, however, the gentleman in whose memory eulogies are being pronounced to-day was the only one representing a constituency the normal majority of which was opposed to the party of its member of Congress.

The phenomenal success of Mr. WILBER as a candidate before the people must have been a great gratification to him, and his surviving relatives and friends may well take pride in the record of his political life.

During the many years he lived in the county of Otsego he may be said to have worked constantly, but while all this time he was accumulating wealth, the people realized that their prosperity was also being added to through his efforts; and his advice was sought by those interested in public improvements and by individuals seeking counsel to guide them in their private enterprises.

Whenever in a rural community we find a man, long a

resident there, who is selected by common consent to lead in all movements for the general welfare, we may safely conclude that he has been a true and unselfish friend to his neighbors. While attending Mr. WILBER'S funeral several weeks ago I was greatly impressed by the evidences of affection and respect with which our late colleague was regarded by his constituents. There appeared to be a total suspension of business that day in the active village of Oneonta and a large influx of visitors who came as mourners from different parts of the district. The tributes paid to his memory by the several clergymen present at the services gave evidence of Mr. WILBER'S unbounded charity and of his great nobility and purity of character, both in public and private life.

The procession which formed at the close of the church ceremonies included in the line various organizations named in honor of Mr. WILBER, and composed of men of splendid physique, who bore on their intelligent countenances expressions of sincere grief.

As our colleague was laid at rest on the hillside overlooking the beautiful valley of the Susquehanna, one could but feel that for many years to come his tomb will be pointed out to the traveler as inclosing the remains of one who had been a friend of the people, working for them and with them at home, and modestly but firmly advancing and guarding their interests in the Congress of the United States.

ADDRESS OF MR. FARQUHAR, OF NEW YORK.

Mr. SPEAKER: Long, long years ago, in the land in which I was born, there was a custom that when they laid in the earth their dead chiefs, or the patriarchs of their families, mourners came to mark the resting spot of the revered dead with

stones from the brook and the mountain-side, until there was erected over the bleak places and in the rich valleys of that northern land the memorial cairn, which stands to-day the memento of the love permeating the old tribal condition of the Celtic race. I come to-day, as a matter of duty, as a matter of kindness, as a matter of the most imperative demand of my own heart, to add my tribute to the memorial cairn of DAVID WILBER.

I know, Mr. Speaker, it is quite customary on occasions like this—for I have sat many years in this House—to hear orations with fine-turned periods, furbished and refurbished for a funeral occasion, full of eulogy, full of expressions that I may even say are overdone for the individuals, but still that come from hearts that gush with feeling for those whom they would eulogize. I could not, if I would, stand on this floor to-day with any finished oration to the memory of DAVID WILBER.

Ah, his was a character that needs no finely-turned sentences. A pioneer of that part of western New York which when he was born was almost a wilderness; a great, rugged, struggling, fighting, pushing character, that made his way in the world against all obstacles; a man whose cardinal principle was honesty, and after that generosity. No fine words can carry back to DAVID WILBER'S home a single expression of kindly esteem that the good honest people of western New York will not recognize as truth and justice when spoken in his memory.

Why do we regret to lose such men here? If it were possible it would be my wish that this Congress and all succeeding Congresses might have within their halls many DAVID WILBERS. He was a man whose opinions were formed in the practical school of life, so that he could instantly detect right from wrong, evil from good, falsehood from the bright

diamond of truth. DAVID WILBER fought the battle of life honestly, cast his freeman's vote honestly, acted honestly, and all his advice to kin or neighbor was honest. Such men, may I say, are somewhat rare in Congress, for there is often such dissembling in our political votes and wordy contests here that I say the rugged, honest line of life of DAVID WILBER is the one that all of us ought to emulate and strive to match.

DAVID WILBER assumed and accepted political service not for its honors. He was called into political life by what you might call neighborhood desires and claims. He was asked to represent the sentiments of his district, the business of his district, the claims of his district, as an integral part of a national body; and in assuming these duties he came to Congress repeatedly with the same simple-heartedness, the same honesty of purpose, to serve not alone his neighbors and his people, but to serve, in his share, the whole United States of America.

National in all his opinions, generous to all those who neither believed in his political ideas nor even in his religious tenets, DAVID WILBER sought to ingraft upon all legislation God's honest truth, and nothing else. Why should he not have been carried to his last resting-place in New York with the tears and bewailments of hundreds of his neighbors, for he had served them all faithfully? Ah, that reputation which comes to a man on this floor may often be well earned, yet in the lapse of a few years it proves to be transient, it passes away, till not even one line is left; whereas such a life as DAVID WILBER'S lives as an example to the young as well as a consolation to the old of the section where he was so well beloved.

I thank God and I thank the people of the State of New York that he was sent from that old Otsego district repeat-

edly; that they gave us an example of a public man of rugged honesty, a man of practical political affairs, as well as a generous and noble citizen. None in that State, none here, can add one word to the eulogy which his own character and life can pass upon DAVID WILBER. To his people, to his neighbors, to his beloved family, his character will endure long years after all memory of his political honors has passed away.

The Speaker *pro tempore*. The question is upon the adoption of the resolutions offered by the gentleman from New York.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted; and in accordance therewith the House adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

JUNE 19, 1890.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate resolutions from the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Chief Clerk read as follows:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *May* 24, 1890.

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity be afforded members to pay proper tribute to the memory of Hon. DAVID WILBER, late a Representative from the State of New York.

Resolved, That in the death of DAVID WILBER the country has lost the services of a safe legislator and faithful public servant.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to his memory the House shall at the conclusion of these ceremonies adjourn.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

ADDRESS OF MR. EVARTS, OF NEW YORK.

Mr. PRESIDENT: DAVID WILBER lived to the age of seventy years, and died very near the spot in which he was born, in the Otsego district of the State of New York. Yet probably, though his home was the same, no greater change could be found in a man's lifetime than that which transpired from the surroundings in which he was born to the surroundings in which he died.

Seventy years ago, Mr. President, calls up to mind a condition of life, both in nature and society, at the spot at which DAVID WILBER was born, that was almost frontier life in a certain sense, and in some very important particulars much more of a frontier life than our present system of sending populations to occupy new lands. The railroads, the telegraphs, have changed wholly the circumstances of new settlements which attended far beyond the time of Mr. WILBER'S birth the situation in which he was born.

Mr. WILBER was born entirely poor, but from parents of sterling and upright character and conduct in life. He followed the path of life of one who labors in the pursuit of wealth, or prosperity at least. I believe that he met no misfortunes in his whole career in which he started in life with nothing but the earnings of his hands.

His thrift, his prudence, his savings, his faculties, his high moral character, and his large and increasing authority among his fellow-men brought him to be possessed of a great fortune, and to be at all times an animating member of all interests surrounding him in his town, in his county, in his section of the State, in his party, and, so far as his private and public life were connected with it, the welfare of the country.

Without education, I believe even academic, there has been no stage in his progress in which he did not show those natural faculties and those natural traits which made him adequate for increasing obligations, increasing responsibilities, and increasing duties. His relations to his neighbors, whether in the interest of commerce and manufactures, or of society, or then opening into a political career, wrought from all sides, from all portions of society, a consenting confidence in him, however differences might give preference for this or that competitor. I believe that political opponents at no time hesitated to feel that DAVID WILBER brought into all these

employments, whether public or private, a character and a conduct that every one should recognize as an advantage and an honor to the communities in which he lived.

Mr. President, he grew up to the age of seventy to see himself surrounded and the whole State filled up with the largest interests of population, of commerce, of manufacture, and of political interests of that State and that State's share of political interests in this great country.

It is not easy to speak without great respect of a life that has thus been made up from the beginning and is closed with no shadow or turning in the traits and conduct which have made him useful to his fellow-citizens and always remembered by those who survive him.

I can hardly say that I had the privilege of any beyond a mere personal acquaintance with DAVID WILBER; but I had long known him and respected him for his situation and conduct in life.

He did not live to take his seat in this Congress, but died at home. He was elected in 1872 a member of the Forty-third Congress and in 1878 of the Forty-sixth Congress and then of the Fiftieth Congress. He was expecting and was looked for by all who surrounded him to do a useful duty during this Congress; but Providence directed otherwise. His steps were turned to a greater and higher sphere, and he passed out of life in the honorable respect and affection of all who knew him.

Mr. President, I offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Senate receives with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of Hon. DAVID WILBER, late a member of the House of Representatives from the State of New York, and tenders to the family and relatives of the deceased the assurance of its sympathy in their bereavement.

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to transmit to the family of Mr. WILBER a copy of the foregoing resolution.

ADDRESS OF MR. HISCOCK, OF NEW YORK.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I avail myself of this opportunity to respectfully pay a tribute to my late colleague in the House of Representatives from the Twenty-fourth Congressional district of New York, Hon. DAVID WILBER.

Mr. WILBER was born near Quaker street, in the city and county of Schenectady, New York, on October 5, 1820. In boyhood he removed with his parents to Milford, Otsego County, N. Y., where he received a common-school education.

At the time of his death he was president of the Wilber National Bank of Oneonta, N. Y. He was a Representative of the State of New York in the Forty-third, Forty-sixth, Fiftieth, and was re-elected to, but on account of the illness of which he died never took his seat in, the Fifty-first Congress.

This brief statement is the history of his progress and achievements from boyhood to manhood, and will find a parallel in the career of many of those men who have contributed to the development of New York and maintained her political and commercial supremacy. Without the advantages of inherited wealth, without the aid of a liberal education—much less than that, with a common-school education of fifty years ago—Mr. WILBER accumulated a large fortune, and by his business methods, marked by ability and integrity, so impressed himself upon a constituency represented by 36,000 voters that at four general elections he was chosen to represent them in the most honorable position within their power of selection.

I am conversant, sir, somewhat with the Congressional

district that Mr. WILBER so long and so ably represented, and I believe it embraces within its boundaries the earlier settlements in New York west of Albany. Rich in agricultural resources, it early invited immigrants from more eastern parts of New York and the New England States, and Mr. WILBER was compelled to measure mental and moral forces in the achievement of his positions with the best intellects and the highest culture of his native State, and there was hardly a contest between him and others for supremacy. A thoroughly honest man, a decidedly able man, he gained, and continued to possess until his death, the esteem, absolute confidence, and admiration of all who knew him. He accumulated wealth, but not at the sacrifice of the respect of his fellow-citizens; and when he was selected to high official positions, his political opponents conceded his eminent fitness, and that they were worthily bestowed by his political party. He was, sir, one of those men who, without trickery or manipulation, commanded a large support from his political opponents. He was not a brilliant man, as that expression is applied to orators, and he was not a genius, as we often apply the term to those who have been eminently successful. His growth was slow but constant, and unmarked by disaster to others or by those questionable methods that are so often in the public mind obscured by great results.

It is just to say that he was not regarded as a great man, compared with many who have added to the renown of his native State; yet, sir, I can recall very few who accomplished so much as a leader in molding sentiment or voicing its purposes as DAVID WILBER. And in his generation I do not recall one who has contributed more to the material interests of a Congressional district, more largely influenced its people, and at the same time maintained, as he

had a right to, the confidence and respect of those whom he represented than he.

Men of his character and achievements, taking into account the disadvantageous circumstances with which he was surrounded in early youth, are fast joining the majority on the other side, and I believe, sir, it is more than doubtful if others will be found to fill their places.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The question is on the adoption of the resolutions submitted by the Senator from New York [Mr. Evarts].

The resolutions were agreed to unanimously.

Mr. EVARTS. I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; and the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Friday, June 20, 1890, at 12 o'clock m.

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